

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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October 9, 2015

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**Charter Oak School reaches an important**

**milestone:** The international design and architecture firm Perkins Eastman congratulates the Town of West Hartford and West Hartford Public Schools on the recent “topping out” of its new elementary school, Charter Oak International Academy. Topping out signifies the placing of the last piece of steel. The 86,800 sf building designed by Perkins Eastman will accommodate 560 students in grades Pre-K to 5. The building is expected to be complete in time for the 2016-2017 school year.

**The Bridge receives a grant for its crisis**

**support program:** The Bridge Family Center in West Hartford was recently granted \$136,000 annually for the next three years to support its newest program, The Bridge Basic Center Program (Bridge BCP). This crisis-support program provides emergency assistance to male, female, and transgender runaway, homeless, and street youth under 18 years of age in the Greater Hartford area. Annually, Bridge BCP will assist approximately 130 youth with emergency services and support, and will offer between 15 and 30 youth emergency shelter with temporary stays of up to 21 days.

The Bridge BCP will be part of a comprehensive system of care that includes 24-hour crisis intervention services; stable, safe living accommodations; assessments; case management; and follow-ups.

**CRIS Radio now available:** Elmwood Senior Center is pleased to announce the addition of CRIS Radio to its list of services to those with vision disabilities. CRIS is a radio reading service that broadcasts over 70 publications a month. Local and national news, sports, obituaries, and sale ads are read daily from the *Hartford Courant*, *New York Times*, *Journal Inquirer* and *New Britain Herald*. *National Geographic*, *Time Magazine*, and *Sports Illustrated* are featured, too. Broadcasts can be heard on a CRIS Internet radio located in the

library of the senior center. Applications are available to residents who would like this service at home. Call (860) 561-8180.

**Maintenance to the South Branch of the Park**

**River begins:** The State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will be performing required maintenance and repairs to the South Branch of the Park River which includes Trout, Rockledge and Piper Brook in West Hartford. DEEP is required to perform this deferred maintenance in order for the flood control system to remain certified by U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The \$4.5 million project will involve clearing trees and vegetation as well as sedimentation removal from the floodway along all reaches of these watercourses. Some concrete work will be performed on floodwalls in various locations.

DEEP expects the work to commence daily (7 AM to 4:30 PM) from mid-October 2015 through June 2016.

**Absentee ballots now available:** Absentee ballots are now available in the Town Clerk's office for the November 3rd, 2015 Election. If you will be out of town or not able to make it to the polls on Election day due to illness, disability, military service, election duties or religious reasons, you are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Applications may be picked up in the clerk's office or downloaded from the [Town Clerk's website](#). Once applications are received, ballots are mailed out the next day.

**Hartford Marathon road closures:** Seven thousand runners are expected to participate in the Hartford Half Marathon on Saturday, October 10. [Click here to view the list of road closures](#) that will occur between 7:30AM and 10:30 AM.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager